(b) The full exploitation of the potential of Non-conventional energy Sources depends upon the availability of financial resources both public & private and technical feasibility & economic viability of available technologies.

Potential of Small Hydro Power

713. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the estimated potential for Small Hydro Power is 10,000 MW whereas the installed capacity is only 250 MW; and

(b) what are the plans of Government to exploit this large potential of energy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The broad estimated potential for Small Hydro Power (SHP) is placed at about 10,000 MW. The total installed capacity of Small Hydro Power projects up to 3 MW station capacity is 216.97 MW.

(b) The Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources has adopted a systematic approach for exploitation of the potential from Small Hydro, which includes identification of potential sites, setting up of demonstration projects and encouragement to the private sector for setting up of commercial SHP projects.

The Ministry is providing various financial incentives for faster development of SHP projects, which includes assistance for conducting detailed Surveys & Investigation, preparation of Detailed Project Reports, capital subsidy for demonstration projects, interest subsidy for commercial projects and support for Renovation and Modernisation of old SHP projects. These incentives are presently available for SHP projects up to 3 MW capacity.

Development of Non-Conventional Energy in North East

714. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the plan of Government to develop and enhance the use of non-conventional energy in the North Eastern States;

(b) how many projects have been taken up in North East during the last three years; and

(c) what success have been achieved in this field?